mines is fixed in accordance with the relevant provisions of Colliery Control Order, 1945, for the purpose of determining the grade of a coal seam, a sample is drawn from a channel made in the coal seam. The shale band occuring in the seam if included in the channel sample if it is not considered, pickable, wherever the shale band occurring in the seam is thick enough and considered pickable|separable it is not included in the channel sample.

In mechanised opencast mining, the mine plan generally provides for separation of bands which are thick enough to be extracted separately depending on the bucket size of the machine, thickness of the band, thickness of the coal seam and other reisted geo-mining parameters.

Clearance to new coal-mines projects

764. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) how many new coal mining projects are cleared by Government during the period 1991-92, 1992-93 1993-94;

(b) the number of such projects which have been cleared by Government but not yet been taken by Coal India Limited; and

(c) the reasons of abnormal delay in implementing the project or clearance by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The Government have sanctioned 9 new coal mining projects (including one expansion project) in Coal India Ltd. during the period 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94. These projects are in various stages of implementation.

(c) Generally, delays in implementation of coal mining projects are due to constraints in land acquisition, related rehabilitation problems, delays in equipment supply and turn-key execution and adverse geo-mining conditions. The Ministry of Coal have identified critical action areas for such projects and have asked the coal companies to take remedial measures.

The current procedure for srutiny and appraisal of new coal project costing above Rs. 50 crores involves considerable appraisal by various agencies in the Government. Clearance from environmental and forestry angles are also required before investment approval. In order to enable the coal companies to undertake preliminary activities like land acquisition, survey work etc. advance action plans are also sanctioned in specific cases depending upon the requirements. All efforts are made to expedite approval of coal projects within the overall financial resources for the Eighth Plan.

Shortage of coal in Gujarat State

765. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of domestic coal as well as for power generation in Gujarat State;

(b) if so, the quantity of coal allocated to the State together with the percentage allocated for the tribal area of the State during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government propose to allocate higher quantity of coal to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) No supplies of soft coke could be made to Gujarat so far in 1994-95 although small quantities were being supplied during earlier years. The production of soft coke in the country is limited on account of restric-